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Chairman, Co-chairman and Members
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B. 6346. An Act Concerning the Regulation of Marine Structures

Dear Chairman, Co-chairman and Members:

House Bill 6346 is identical to House Bill 5462. Currently, the process for residential marine structures (Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 22a-359 to 22a-361) requires an application, public notice of tentative determination, and permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Long Island Sound Programs ("OLISP"). This process occurs without benefit of regulations for the past 38 years for the General Permit for 4/40 (4 feet wide x 40 feet long) Piers and Docks.

The permit application does not require: (1) identification of construction materials and there environmental effects, e.g., leaching toxic pollutants; (2) identification of non-leaching feasible and prudent alternatives; (3) fastening methods to insure retention of structural integrity and rigidity during storm events; and (4) construction methods to reduce solar shading. Such material alternatives include: marine grade polymeric coating of pressure treated lumbers, pau lope, greenheart, plastic lumber, cedar, and redwood at the very least. The OLISP has never required or performed a structural analysis on such piers or docks.

Engineers representing clients, such as Docko, Inc., Mystic Connecticut, have consistently refused over a number of years and many applications to provide any material alternatives unless requested by OLISP, which refuses to seek such information – a proverbial Catch-22.

Applicants invariably claim no "adverse environmental effects" from pressure treated lumber on water quality, benthic inveterbrates, fish, etc. without any supporting empirical evidence. The OLISP requires no analysis from applicants on the effect of planking on solar shading to vegetation and the water column. **Hence, regulations are essential for environmental protection and debris management.**

Cordially,



Robert Fromer